

AGENDA ITEM III

LETTER OF INTENT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY-ALEXANDRIA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Louisiana State University-Alexandria (LSU-A) currently offers only a few baccalaureate programs, mostly in general education areas. The projected B.S. in Criminal Justice is designed to address local needs for appropriately-trained law enforcement personnel.

STAFF SUMMARY

Consistency with Role, Scope, and Mission

The projected program would be appropriate to the role, scope and mission of LSU-A.

Possible Unnecessary Program Duplication

Most four-year universities offer a bachelor's degree program in Criminal Justice, including somewhat distant Grambling State University and Northwestern State University. While not officially classified as an "essential" undergraduate degree required of any four-year university, the staff notes that greater professional requirements and societal expectations for highly trained law enforcement personnel strongly argue for ready access to such a program in every metropolitan area. Hence, the staff believes unnecessary program duplication is not a relevant issue.

Consistency With the Mandates of the Desegregation Settlement Agreement

While the Desegregation Settlement Agreement has officially expired, the staff remains cautious regarding Letters of Intent which may duplicate similar programs at predominantly black institutions. Accordingly, the staff solicited responses from both Grambling State University and Southern University to determine whether either institution felt that the development of such a program at LSU-A would adversely impact their program enrollments. Both universities responded by indicating no objections to LSU-A's proposed program.

Adherence to Criteria for Funding

LSU-A appears to possess most of the resources needed to offer the projected program. One additional faculty and enhanced library/learning resources will be required (approximately 60K/year). The University claims that these costs can be covered with existing revenues and likely increased tuition income. Specific evidence of this claim was not provided.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The staff concludes that the Letter of Intent for the projected Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice at LSU-A appears to meet requirements of **Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letter of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs**. Clear and compelling evidence that the program can be implemented without additional State cost must be provided in any subsequent program proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed Letter of Intent for the projected Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice program (CIP Code 43.0104) at Louisiana State University-Alexandria. Any subsequent proposal submitted by the University based on this Letter of Intent shall include clear and compelling evidence of no additional State cost.